

6th NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI) MEETING

RSIS paper on “the Establishment of NADI, NADI Secretariat, and NADI Website, and the agreed guidelines for NADI annual meetings and NADI workshops and seminars”

**Tan Seng Chye,
Senior Fellow,**

**S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**

Introduction

This paper highlights the establishment of the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) in August 2007, and its aims, purpose and objectives, the establishment of the NADI Secretariat at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), the establishment of the NADI Website in July 2009, and the agreed guidelines for the hosting of the NADI annual meetings and workshops, seminars, and table top exercises. NADI believes that it is a relevant Track II think tank forum of ASEAN defence and security institutions, to support the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) by thinking ahead of the curve and providing timely and relevant inputs in the form of fresh ideas and recommendations which can be beyond their national positions on current issues, for consideration of the ADMM track.

Each NADI member has a core NADI institution which can establish an informal national committee to co-opt representatives of other think tanks / research institutions, individuals having an interest and expertise in defence and security matters, and officials who should participate in their personal capacities, in NADI meetings. While briefings on specific issues at a NADI workshop could be by officials of NADI member countries, and experts in these areas, the discussions by NADI participants should be in their personal capacities so as to enable them to have a free reign to give their ideas and recommendations that could be beyond their national positions. In ensuring this, there will be no attribution to individual participants' views in the report of the meeting. So far this arrangement has worked well for NADI meetings and workshops.

Establishment of NADI

Following the establishment of the ADMM in 2006, the RSIS, Nanyang Technological University, initiated the establishment of the NADI in August 2007, to support the ADMM and to provide the ADMM track with fresh ideas and policy relevant recommendations. The inaugural NADI meeting organised by RSIS in August 2007 at the Marina Mandarin Singapore exchanged views on the regional security outlook, prospects for ASEAN defence and security cooperation and ideas and recommendations for such cooperation. The meeting which was attended by all NADI members, agreed that the host of the NADI meeting will rotate in alphabetical order and will coincide with the ASEAN country chairing the ADMM. The meeting also agreed that RSIS would serve as the Secretariat of NADI. The inaugural meeting concluded that NADI would be a relevant and useful forum in the ongoing process of creating an ASEAN

Political Security Community (APSC). The ASEAN Defence Senior Officials Meeting (ADSOM) in October 2007 considered the Chairman's report of the NADI inaugural meeting and endorsed the establishment of NADI as a useful forum to build confidence and familiarity among ASEAN think tanks and research institutions, which could provide the ADMM track with timely fresh ideas and relevant recommendations.

NADI's aim

As a Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions, NADI aims to perform the following functions:

- (1) A forum to network and to build confidence and familiarity among the ASEAN think tanks and research institutions to facilitate closer cooperation
- (2) A useful forum for policy analysts specialising in defence and security issues, academics researching security cooperation, and defence officials to discuss issues of security cooperation that the ASEAN Summit and ASEAN Defence Ministers have raised.
- (3) A forum for participants to think beyond their governments' positions and to provide timely fresh ideas and relevant recommendations for the ADMM track to consider.

Purpose and Objectives of NADI

NADI believes that its role, purpose and objectives are the following:

- (a) The establishment of NADI was timely and necessary to bring policy analysts specialising in defence and security issues, academics researching defence and security cooperation, and defence officials, together to discuss issues of security cooperation that the ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN Defence Ministers had raised.
- (b) The informal Track II platform could offer a more conducive environment for a free discussion of defence and security cooperation in ASEAN than the formal structure of an official meeting. Ideas and proposals that may be deemed too sensitive to be formally tabled at an official Track I meeting, could be informally raised and debated at a Track II meeting.
- (c) As defence officials often face time constraints within their tight schedules to discuss certain matters like the ASEAN Annual Defence and Security Outlook, NADI could provide useful inputs in terms of scope, contents, format and useful inputs for this publication for consideration of the ADMM track. (NADI has submitted such a proposal at the second NADI meeting in 2008)
- (d) NADI can also contribute to the ADMM process by thinking ahead of the curve and anticipate possible security challenges, address emerging issues in security cooperation as well as to think of new ideas and recommendations for cooperation which would be relevant and timely for the ADSOM and the ADMM track to consider.

- (e) NADI can be a forum to build confidence and familiarity among the ASEAN think tanks and research institutions.
- (f) Although some participants in NADI meetings are from defence ministries and their defence research institutes or government agencies, they should participate in their personal capacities so as to allow them to think innovatively about defence and security issues beyond their governments' positions in order to contribute fresh and forward looking ideas and recommendations that are useful and relevant to the ADMM track for ADMM's management of its relations and cooperation with the Plus countries.

Launch of NADI Website

At the beginning of the NADI Workshop on Maritime Security held in Singapore in July 2009, RSIS launched the establishment of the NADI Website (www.rsis.edu.sg/nadi) which would be managed by RSIS. The NADI Website was intended to highlight the work of NADI and to maintain a record of the Chairman's reports of the NADI annual meetings and workshops, and the forthcoming NADI meetings. The NADI Website has also an up to date lists of RSIS commentaries, working papers, and other publications.

RSIS has requested all the NADI core institutions to provide their website links to the NADI Website so that anyone accessing the NADI Website will be able to also access links to the other NADI core institutions' websites.

Role of the NADI Secretariat

The NADI Secretariat has advised the NADI core institutions on the format and agreed guidelines on the conduct of NADI annual meetings and workshops. Some NADI core institutions that have changes of personnel, have often sought the advice of the NADI Secretariat which has been managed by Mr Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow, RSIS, on the conduct of NADI meetings and sometimes on the formulation of the agendas for the NADI meetings and workshops

The NADI Website which is managed by RSIS, has all the reports of the NADI annual meetings and NADI workshops. These reports are placed in the NADI Website after they have been submitted to the ADSOM and the ADMM track for consideration. The NADI Website has all the updated RSIS commentaries and working papers and links to other RSIS publications.

Administrative arrangements for NADI annual meetings and NADI workshops and seminars, and the agreed guidelines for the organisation and conduct of NADI meetings

- (a) Core NADI institution's informal national committee and participation in personal capacity

Each NADI member has a core NADI institution which can establish an informal national committee to co-ordinate representatives of other think tanks / research institutions, individuals who have an interest and expertise in defence and security matters, and officials who should participate in their personal capacities, in NADI meetings. While briefings on specific issues at a NADI workshop could be made by guest speakers like officials of NADI member countries, and experts in those fields, but they will not participate in the subsequent discussions by NADI delegates. All the NADI delegates should participate in the discussions in their personal capacities, to enable them to have a free reign to give their ideas and recommendations that could go beyond their national positions. To ensure this, there will be no attribution to individual participants' views in the report of the meeting.

(b) NADI Chairmanship and hosting of NADI annual meeting and workshops

The host of the NADI annual meeting will rotate in alphabetical order and it will coincide with the ASEAN country holding the Chairmanship of the ADMM. However if the ASEAN country hosting the ADMM does not have a Track II defence and security institution, it can be decided by mutual agreement of the ASEAN countries that another ASEAN country would host the Track II meeting.

The NADI annual meeting is usually held in April at the plenary level. A number of workshops would be proposed to discuss specific issues relevant to the ADMM track in between the NADI annual meetings. NADI members could offer to host these workshops at a convenient time.

It was agreed at the second NADI meeting that for NADI annual meeting, the host will meet the expenses of conference facilities and any local hospitality that they may offer. NADI member countries will pay for the airfares and hotel accommodation of their delegates including the airfare of the leaders of their delegations. However, the host country will usually provide accommodation to the leaders of the NADI delegations.

For NADI workshops /seminars, the cost of conference facilities will be met by the NADI host country. The NADI members' delegations including the leader of their delegation, will meet the cost of their airfares and hotel accommodation.

NADI annual meetings and NADI workshops/seminars are closed door meetings which are being held without media publicity, and will be attended by the ASEAN countries only.

The NADI Chairman should send out their invitation to NADI members' core institutions to attend the NADI annual meetings and workshops preferably six weeks before the meeting to facilitate their preparation for the meetings. The letter of invitation should be copied to the NADI Secretariat. The invitation letter for the NADI annual meeting will include the date for the meeting, the agenda, programme, a registration

form, and an administration note to inform participants of their hotel accommodation and the room rates, and venue of the meetings. The agenda should be carefully formulate to facilitate exchange of views on the regional political and security environment and outlook, and for the discussions of other regional security issues that would have implications for the ASEAN region and the wider East Asia region. The NADI meeting will conclude with a Chairman's report with policy recommendations which the NADI Chairman will submit it to ADSOM for the ADMM's consideration. This same procedure will be followed when a NADI workshop is being held.

The NADI meeting will usually include a site visit or a tour to cultural or historical monuments towards the end of the meeting. The site visit could be to an institution of a defence and security nature which has activities relating to the meeting or workshop. The following were some examples of such site visits.

- (i) At the NADI workshop on Maritime Security organised by RSIS in July 2009, a visit was arranged for participants to the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) at the Singapore Command and Control Centre, Changi Naval Base, where real time tracking of commercial ships including any hijacking of a ship, could be seen. IFC would relay any hijacking of a ship to the port authorities concerned. Forty two Liaison Officers from some 13 countries including ASEAN countries and the Plus countries are based at the IFC. IFC works with 57 operating agencies in 31 countries. This highlighted the ASEAN and Plus countries cooperation in managing maritime security.
- (ii) At the NADI Workshop on Peacekeeping Operations hosted by Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur in October 2010, a site visit was arranged to the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre at Port Dickson.
- (iii) At the NADI Workshop on Aviation Security hosted by RSIS in February 2012, arrangements were made by RSIS for NADI participants to attend the Asia Pacific Security Conference (APSEC) organised by RSIS, and to have free access to the Singapore Air Show.
- (iv) At the 5th NADI meeting in Siem Reap, a tour of the historical Angkor Wat was arranged for the NADI participants.
- (v) At the second NADI Workshop on Maritime Security held in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2012, a tour of cultural and historical monuments was arranged.
- (vi) At the NADI workshop in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, in October 2012, NADI participants toured the Royal Regalia Museum.

(c) Dialogue with ADSOM

At the NADI Workshop held in Brunei in October 2012, the idea of a dialogue with ADSOM was discussed and the NADI Chairman will explore the possibility of arranging this dialogue as it will enable NADI to brief ADSOM and to get a better sense of ADSOM's areas of interest.

(d) NADI Retreat

The 4th NADI meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia, agreed that it would be useful for NADI to hold a NADI Retreat in the second half of the year in addition to the NADI annual meeting which is usually held in April. The reason is that the NADI annual meeting will not have sufficient time to think of longer term policy recommendations for the ADMM track. At least a full day retreat with a specific agenda will enable the NADI core institutions to deliberate on forward looking ideas and recommendations for ADMM cooperation and management of future ADMM's cooperation with the Plus countries in non-traditional security issues and in some areas of traditional security issues which will likely emerge. In this regard, NADI has to think of ideas that would ensure ASEAN unity and cohesion, and preserve ASEAN centrality in regional security institutions and forums, so that ASEAN can continue to drive the ADMM Plus process and the related expanded EAS. The NADI Workshop in October on "Future trajectory of ASEAN cooperation with its dialogue partners in the ADMM Plus and the EAS" is such an attempt but a more in-depth discussion is necessary to result in further relevant policy recommendations on ADMM's management of its cooperation with the Plus countries, which could be submitted to ADMM for their consideration.

As the ADMM Plus is an integral part of the ADMM, NADI needs to provide advice only to the ADMM. In this regard, the 4th ADMM meeting agreed that NADI should remain an ASEAN forum and should not be expanded to include any non ASEAN country, to ensure that NADI is the Track II forum to advise the ADMM.

19 February 2013.

References

- (1) RSIS papers on the establishment of NADI and the NADI Website, as in the NADI Website
- (2) NADI Chairman's reports of the NADI annual meetings and the NADI workshops since 2007 to December 2012

-----000-----